SHROUDED IN STOLEN IDENTITIES AND CLANDESTINE SECRETS, THE MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. HERO? VILLAIN? SOCIOPATH? DEADPOOL MAKES HIS OWN RULES AND PLAYS BY NOBODY'S GAME. HE IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS CONFINED TO A WORLD OF CONSTRICTING ORDER!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: DEADPOOL

GOING OUT WITH A BANG!

"HI-DIDDLE-LEE-DEE, A KILLER'S LIFE FOR MEEE!"
KNOW WHAT, VANESSA?
WHAT, WADE?
THAT'D MAKE A GREAT TARANTINO REMAKE! 'PINOCCHIO: THE MERC WITH THE NOSE!' AN' EVERY TIME HE TOLD A LIE, HIS NOSE WOULD TURN INTO A DIFFERENT KIND OF GUN!
COULD HE PICK IT?
THE TYPE OF GUN?
NO, HIS NOSE, SILLY.
HEY, 'NESSA, BAD JOKES ARE MY TERRITORY.
:GIGGLE: SORRY SWEETIE, I WOULDN'T DARE STEP ON THE SAME COMEDY STAGE AS "DEADPOOL: THE MERC-WITH-THE-MOUTH!"

STORY : BUDDY SCALERA
ART : KARL KERSCHL
COLORS : TOM CHU
LETTERS : DAVE & SHARPEFONT
ASST. EDITOR : MIKE RAICHT
EDITOR : MIKE MARTS
BIG GUNS : JOE Q.
PREZ : BILL J.

DEDICATED TO DANIELLE HALEY

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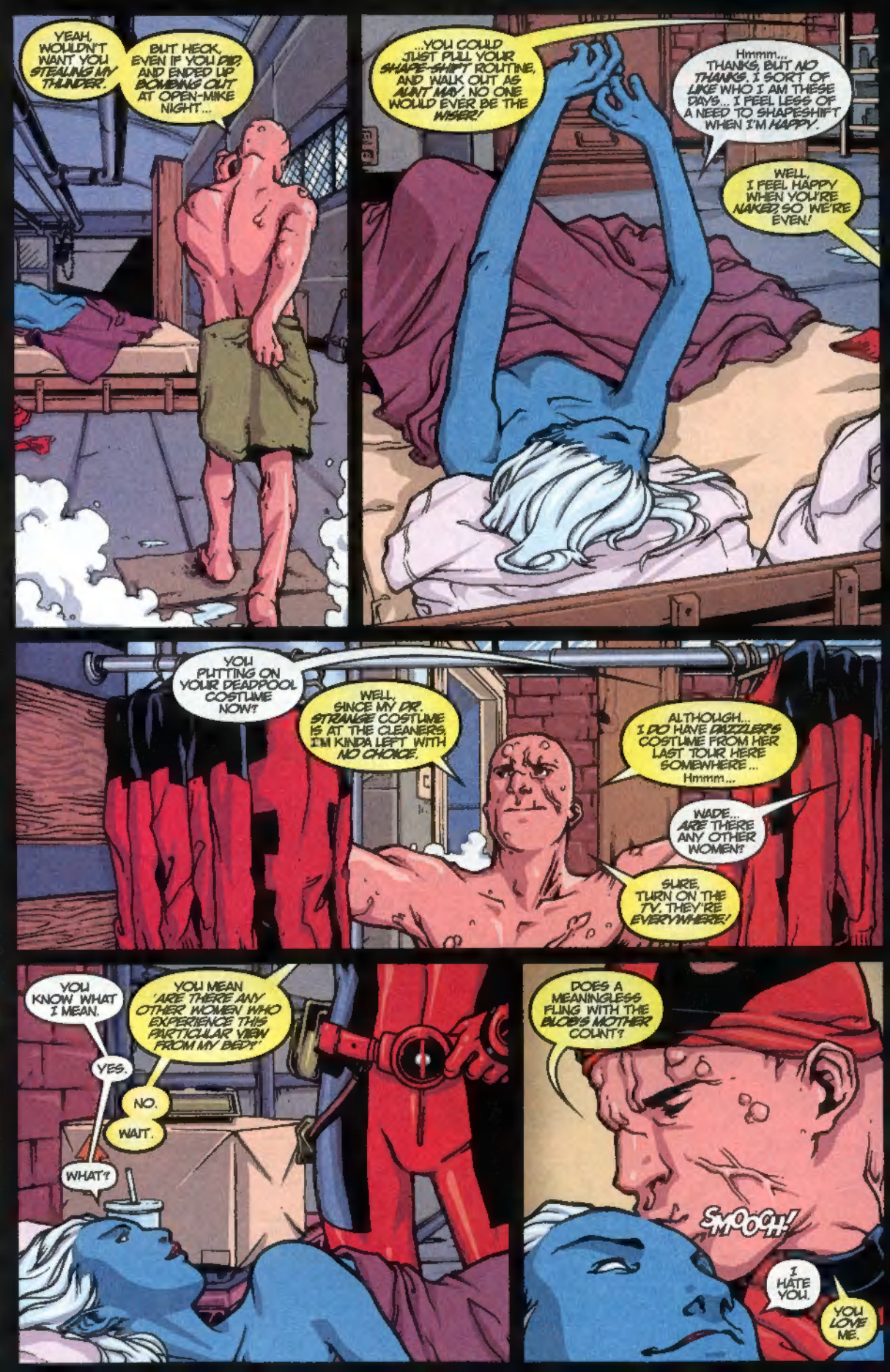

YEAH, WOULDN'T WANT YOU STEALING MY THUNDER.
BUT HECK, EVEN IF YOU DID, AND ENDED UP BOMBING OUT AT OPEN-MIKE NIGHT...
...YOU COULD JUST PULL YOUR SHAPE-SHIFT ROUTINE, AND WALK OUT AS AUNT MAY. NO ONE WOULD EVER BE THE WISER!
Hmmm... THANKS, BUT NO THANKS. I SORT OF LIKE WHO I AM THESE DAYS... I FEEL LESS OF A NEED TO SHAPESHIFT WHEN I'M HAPPY.
WELL, I FEEL HAPPY WHEN YOU'RE NAKED, SO WE'RE EVEN!
YOU PUTTING ON YOUR DEADPOOL COSTUME NOW?
WELL, SINCE MY DR. STRANGE COSTUME IS AT THE CLEANERS, I'M KINDA LEFT WITH NO CHOICE.
ALTHOUGH... I DO HAVE DAZZLER'S COSTUME FROM HER LAST TOUR HERE SOMEWHERE... Hmmm...
WADE... ARE THERE ANY OTHER WOMEN?
SURE, TURN ON THE TV. THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YES.
WHAT?
YOU MEAN 'ARE THERE ANY OTHER WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE THIS PARTICULAR VIEW FROM MY BED?'
NO.
WAIT.
DOES A MEANINGLESS FLING WITH THE BLOB'S MOTHER COUNT?
SMOOCH!
I HATE YOU.
YOU LOVE ME.

WELL, I'M OFF TO THE ORIFICE, HONEY!
I'LL BE HOME WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD AND NOT A MINUTE SOONER!
WADE WILSON, YOU'VE GOT A HOLD OF MY HEART.
OKAY, GIRL, ENOUGH TIME LAZING IN BED.
Brrinngg
Brrinngg
DON'T ANSWER IT-- JUST GET DRESSED.
Brrinngg
THE MAN'S ENTITLED TO SOME PRIVACY.
Brrinngg CLICK
HI! THIS IS DEADPOOL MERCENARY FOR HIRE. MURDER AND MAYHEM IS MY SPECIALTY. LEAVE A MESSAGE!
WADE? IT'S ME, THERESA...
CRUNNCH
...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET TOGETHER TODAY... THERE'S A LOVELY FLOWER EXHIBIT OUT ON LONG ISLAND THAT I'M DYING TO SEE...
...I FIGURED IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE LAST SEEN EACH OTHER... ANYWAY, CALL ME AT HOME.

...AND HE JUST RUNS FAST? HE CAN'T PROJECTILE VOMIT ON COMMAND OR ANYTHING?
HE RUNS VERY FAST.
RIGHT. AND YOU NEED THE STREET SPEEDER DEAD?
HE'S VERY ANNOYING.
YES, HE RUNS VERY LATE AT NIGHT.
SOMETIMES AFTER 9:00 PM!
GOSH, 9:00 PM! I CAN SEE WHY YOU LADIES HIRED A PROFESSIONAL!
WE TRIED THE AVENGERS...
...BUT THEY JUST DON'T KILL PEOPLE. NOT FOR MONEY, AT LEAST.
AND WE HEARD YOU WERE A "CONSCIENCE-FREE LOWLIFE SCUM WHO FELT NO REMORSE ABOUT SNUFFING OUT A HUMAN LIFE."
DON'T TRY TO BUTTER ME UP, GRANNY.
LOOK, YOU Q-TIP'S PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CASH FOR THE 'POOLMAN, SO--
WE HAVE EXACTLY $21,025.79.
WE HAD A BAKE SALE. A BIG BAKE SALE.
WOW. IMPRESSED.
BUT EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT WITH ME TO KILL "A GUY WHO RUNS REALLY FAST -- SOMETIMES AFTER 9:00 P.M."
WELL, IF YOU'D LIKE... YOU CAN BORROW OUR GUN.
IT'S CALLED THE "LIEFELDER."
HEY, LOOKOUT, YOU IDIOT!
THERE HE IS, THE DASTARDLY STREET SPEEDER!
IF YOU HURRY NOW, MR. DEADPOOL, YOU CAN KILL HIM AND COLLECT YOUR MONEY BEFORE GOLDEN GIRLS COMES ON!

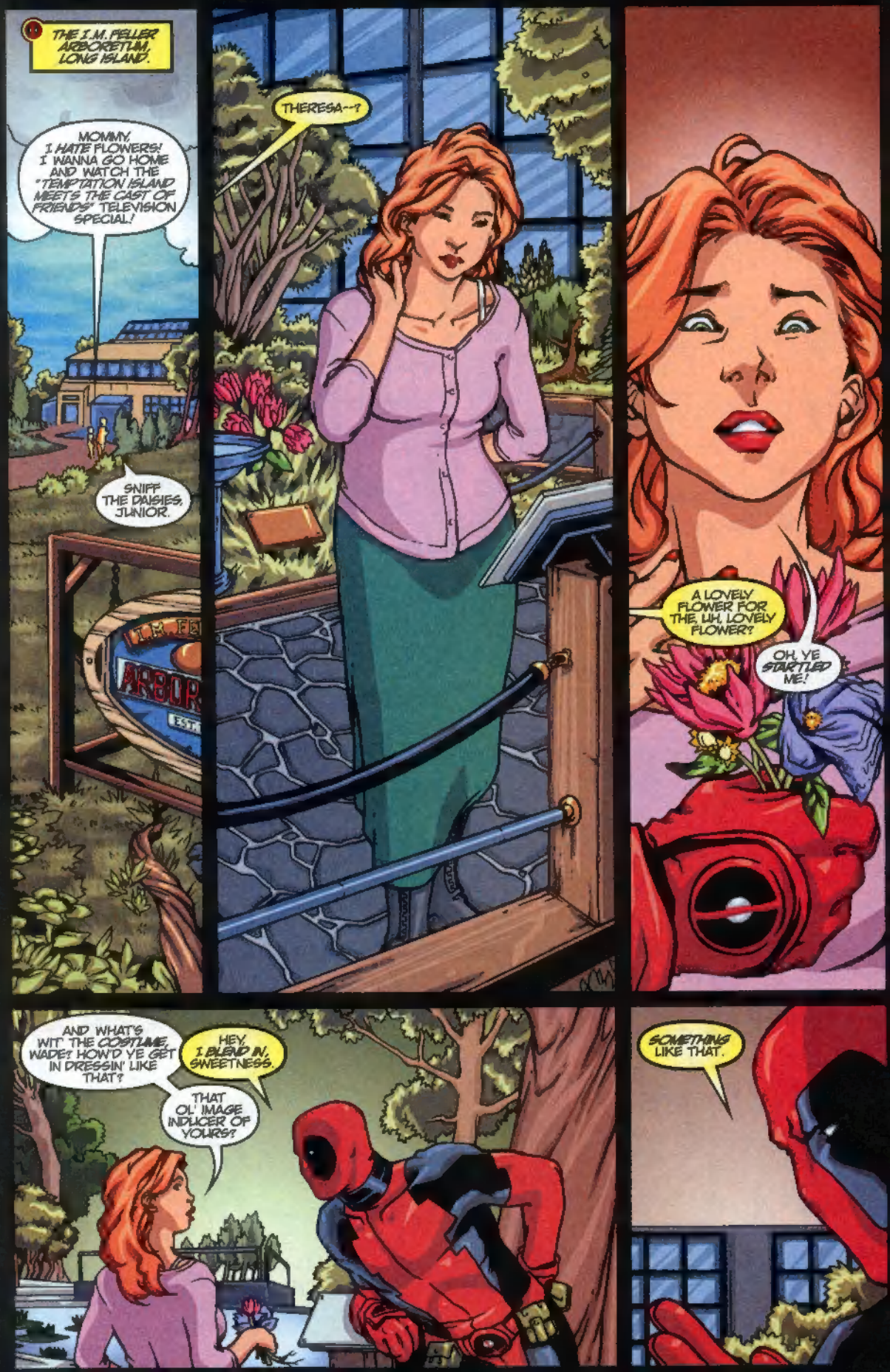
JEEZE, HEAVY ARTILLERY... LOTSA BUTTONS AND KNOBS, TOO...
...LESSEE IF THE MANUAL SAYS SOMETHING USEFUL...
USER MANUAL
WHOOSH
DEADPOOL READ SLOW. STREET SPEEDER RUN FAST.
DEADPOOL SHOOT SPEEDER DEAD...?
CHOOM
OOOOF!
WHOA!
LOOK OUT FOR THE SKYLIGHT, MR. DEADPOOL!
KRASH!
WHOA, I SAY!
UHHH... OWCH.
SO WILL YOU TAKE THE JOB, MR. DEADPOOL?
YES, WITH EXTREME GLEE.
YER FAT BUTT'S ON MY DINNER.

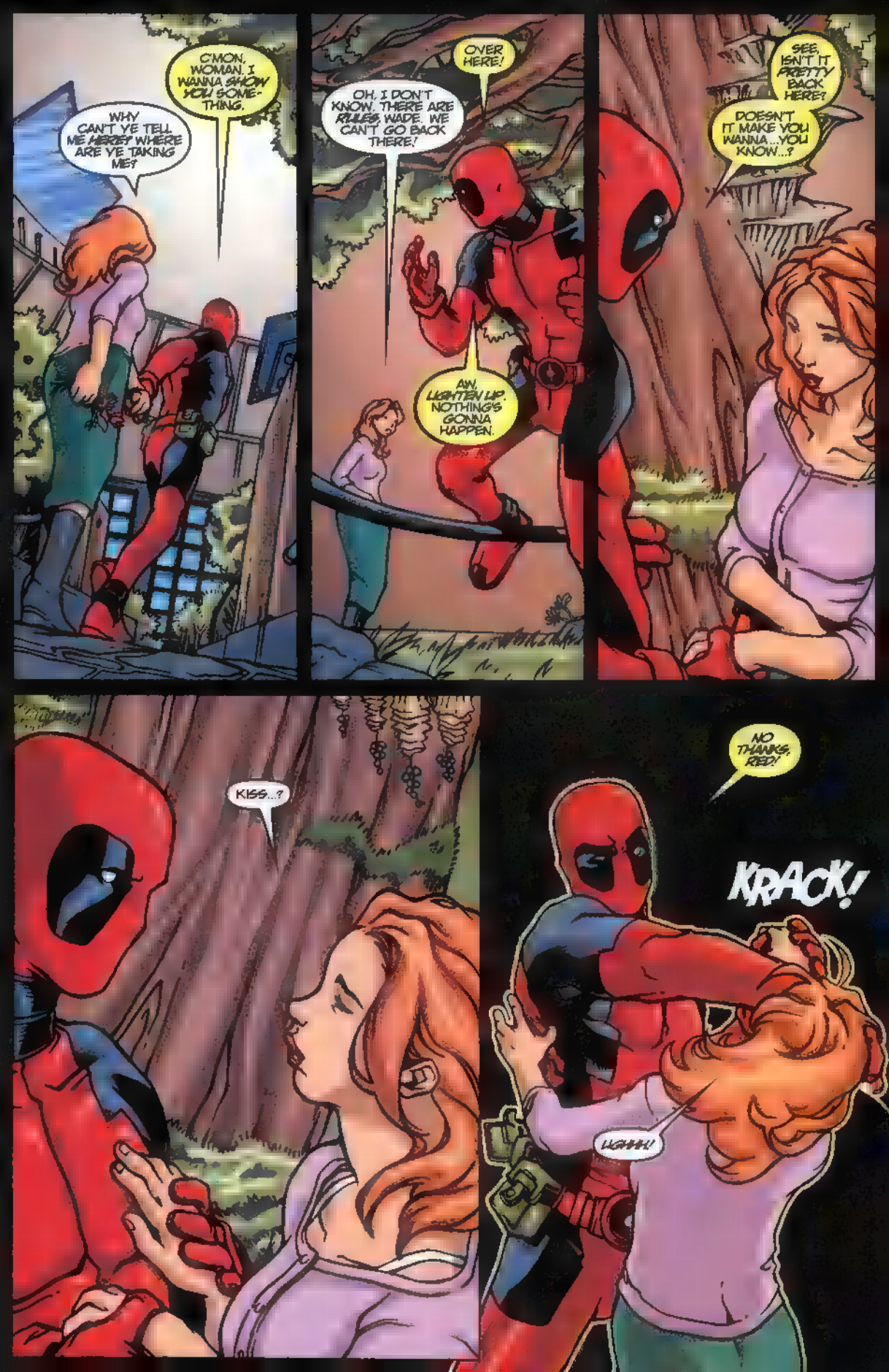
BACK XOMCH! KILLIN' ME.
WHAT KINDA NAME IS STREET SPEEDER, ANYWAYS?
STUPID NAME IS WHAT IT IS.
GOTTA FIND THAT GUN THAT SHOOTS IDIOTS.
HERE IT IS.
NEED BULLETS. WHERE ARE THEM SLUGGOS?
BULLETS?
BULLETS, YEAH.
GAHH!
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU INVISIBLE, VANESSA?
I'M NOT INVISIBLE, WADE. I'VE JUST LEARNED NEW VARIATIONS ON MY SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS.
TO SNEAK UP ON NICE PEOPLE?
NICE PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY KILL PEOPLE FOR A LIVING.
DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH THE FACTS, VANESSA.
WADE, AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN ME? DON'T YOU CARE FOR ME?
YOU? YES.
BUT YOUR NEW "I'M WALLPAPER" ROUTINE? NOT SO MUCH.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ON A HOT DATE.
A HOT--? YOU... YOU...
SLAM!
DON'T WORRY, SWEET-CHEEKS...THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET HOT FOR DEADPOOL, REAL SOON. TRUST ME.

WHAT'S THE ROPE FOR, MR. DEADPOOL? TO LASSO THE STREET SPEEDER?
NO. IT'S TO DRAG HIS CARCASS AROUND ONCE I'M FINISHED KILLING HIM.
OH MY.
HERO
X-ING
PIZZA
HE'S AS DEAD AS BUCKY.
YUM YUM GROCET
BREEEEEP
>SIGH< ALWAYS WHEN I'M WORKING OR GETTING MY HAIR DONE.
VANESSA
IS THAT YOUR GIRL? OH, TELL US ABOUT HER, MR. DEADPOOL!
NO.
BUT—!
NO.
LISTEN, I DON'T CARE THAT YOU LADIES ARE GRANDMOTHERS. I HAVE A GUN AND I WILL USE IT.
BUT LITTLE OLD LADIES NEED TO GOSSIP MR. DEADPOOL...
PLEEEEASE!
>SIGH< FINE. VANESSA IS MY GIRLFRIEND. SHE'S A THROWBACK TO THE DAYS WHEN WOMEN WERE PROUD TO BE HIT OVER THE HEAD WITH A CLUB AND DRAGGED BY THEIR HAIR.
SHE'S BOSSY, OVERBEARING AND DISTRUSTFUL.
AND THOSE ARE HER GOOD QUALITIES.

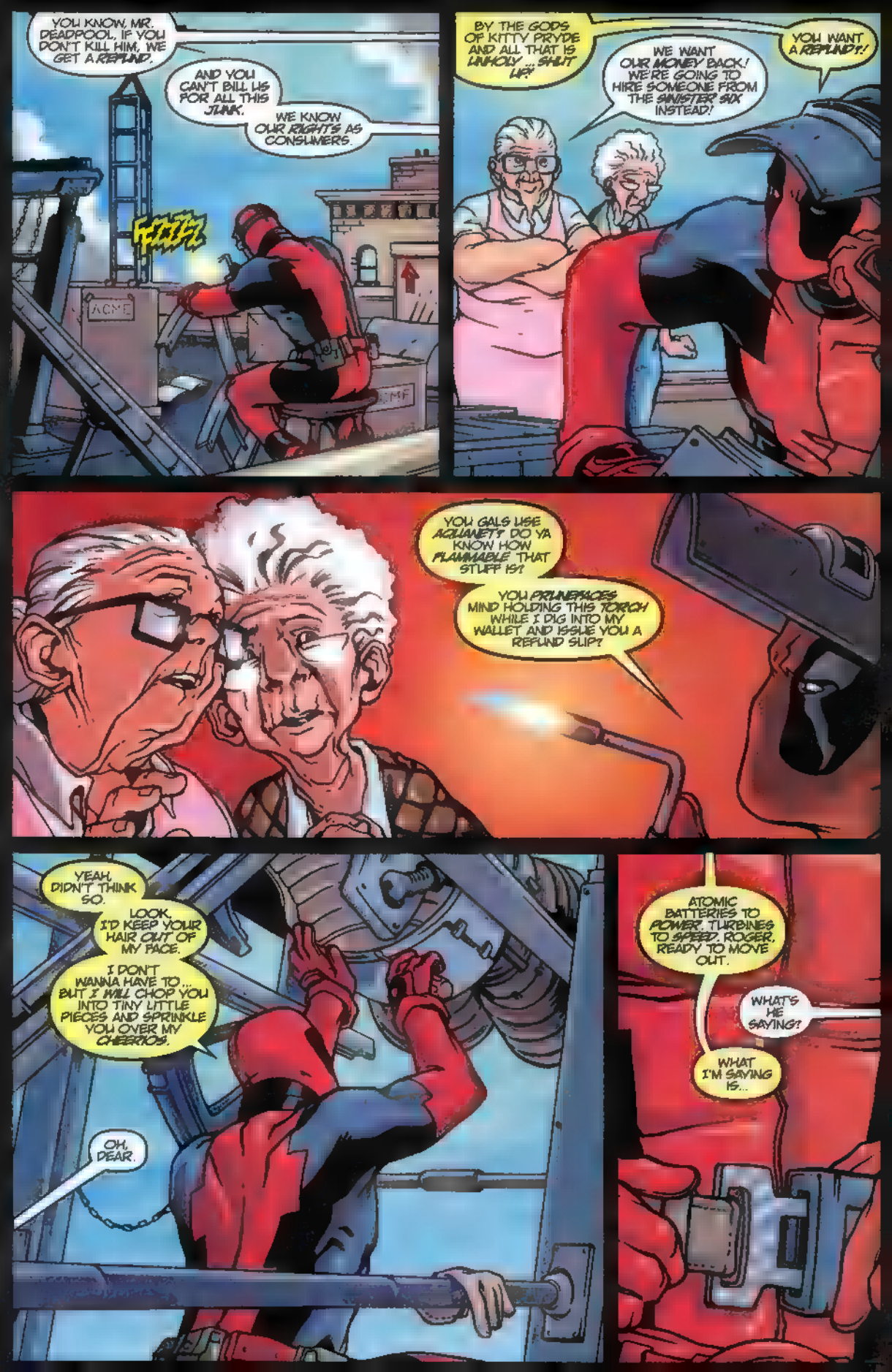
IS SHE A MERCENARY, LIKE YOU?
YES AND NO. I MEAN, SHE'S DONE SOME BAD STUFF IN HER DAY...
...SHE EVEN MESSED MY MIND UP WITH THOSE WEIRD SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS OF HERS.
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER WOMAN IN YOUR HEART, MR. DEADPOOL.
WELL... SORT OF. THERE'S THIS IRISH ANGEL NAMED THERESA... AND SHE'S JUST SUGAR AND SPICE AND PORK FRIED RICE.
AND I THINK I'M IN LO--
MR. DEADPOOL--!
--I THINK THE STREET SPEEDER IS COMING!
DANG! I'LL NEVER GET THIS RAZOR-STUDDED NET UNTANGLED IN TIME!
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR LOVE LIFE IS THE SAME WAY!
YOU BETTER HURRY AND GET INTO YOUR...UH... CONTRAPTION.
IT'S A POWER LAUNCHER, MONKEY BREATH.
I JUST GOT ONE MORE THING TO SET UP AND THE STREET SPEEDER IS AS GOOD AS BAGGED.
NETTED.
WHATEVER.
THE BAIT IS IN PLACE. THE TRAP IS SET!
HEH. THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!

OKAY, HERE HE COMES, GRANNIES! WHEN HE STOPS TO PICK UP THESE SHOES... YANK THE LEVER!
READY... SET...
NOW! NOW! PULL IT NOW!
NO! TOO SOON!!
I'M GONNA MISS!
WHHOOOSH!
SCRRREEECH
KKKRUNCH
HEY, THESE AREN'T BRICKS! THIS BUILDING'S MADE ENTIRELY OUTTA BUTTER!
WOW, IT'S A GOOD THING THE ROPE HOLDING THAT PIANO DIDN'T SNAP!
WHOOPS... SPOKE TOO--
KKRAAANNGG
PLINK!
POING!
OKAY...TAKE THE SNEAKERS... CARE F I SEE!
SIGH: WHOEVER SAID PIANO WASN'T GOOD FOR HEAVY MUSIC NEVER HAD ONE LAND ON HIS HEAD!


THE I.M. PELLER ARBORETUM, LONG ISLAND.
MOMMY, I HATE FLOWERS! I WANNA GO HOME AND WATCH THE "TEMPTATION ISLAND MEETS THE CAST OF FRIENDS" TELEVISION SPECIAL!
SNIFF THE DAISIES, JUNIOR.
THERESA--?
A LOVELY FLOWER FOR THE, UH, LOVELY FLOWER?
OH, YE STARTLED ME!
AND WHAT'S WIT' THE COSTUME, WADE? HOW'D YE GET IN DRESSIN' LIKE THAT?
HEY, I BLEND IN, SWEETNESS.
THAT OL' IMAGE INDUCER OF YOURS?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


WHY CAN'T YE TELL ME HERE? WHERE ARE YE TAKING ME?
C'MON, WOMAN. I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
OVER HERE!
OH, I DON'T KNOW. THERE ARE RULES, WADE. WE CAN'T GO BACK THERE!
AW, LIGHTEN UP. NOTHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.
SEE, ISN'T IT PRETTY BACK HERE?
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA...YOU KNOW...?
KISS...?
NO THANKS, RED!
KRACK!
LUGHHH!

I... UHHKK!
CRUNCHH!
NO, I WASN'T THINKING "KISS" AT ALL.
NOT WITH YOU, NOT--
--EVER!
SPAKK!
YOU'RE BENEATH ME, YOU COW.
SPLUTT
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE COMMON COURTESY OF STAYING CONSCIOUS WHILE I TALK TO YOU, DO YOU?
I DESERVE BETTER THAN YOU... I... I...
...I... I'M... HE...DESERVES BETTER...
NOW GO BACK TO WHATEVER SHAMROCK YOU CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER...
...AND STAY AWAY FROM MY MAN.


YOU KNOW, MR. DEADPOOL, IF YOU DON'T KILL HIM, WE GET A REFUND.
AND YOU CAN'T BILL US FOR ALL THIS JUNK.
WE KNOW OUR RIGHTS AS CONSUMERS.
FIZZT
ACME
BY THE GODS OF KITTY PRYDE AND ALL THAT IS UNHOLY... SHUT UP!
WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK! WE'RE GOING TO HIRE SOMEONE FROM THE SINISTER SIX INSTEAD!
YOU WANT A REFUND?!
YOU GALS USE ACETONE? DO YA KNOW HOW FLAMMABLE THAT STUFF IS?
YOU PRUNEFACES MIND HOLDING THIS TORCH WHILE I DIG INTO MY WALLET AND ISSUE YOU A REFUND SLIP?
YEAH, DIDN'T THINK SO.
LOOK, I'D KEEP YOUR HAIR OUT OF MY FACE.
I DON'T WANNA HAVE TO... BUT I WILL CHOP YOU INTO TINY LITTLE PIECES AND SPRINKLE YOU OVER MY CHEERIOS.
OH, DEAR.
ATOMIC BATTERIES TO POWER. TURBINES TO SPEED. ROGER, READY TO MOVE OUT.
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS...

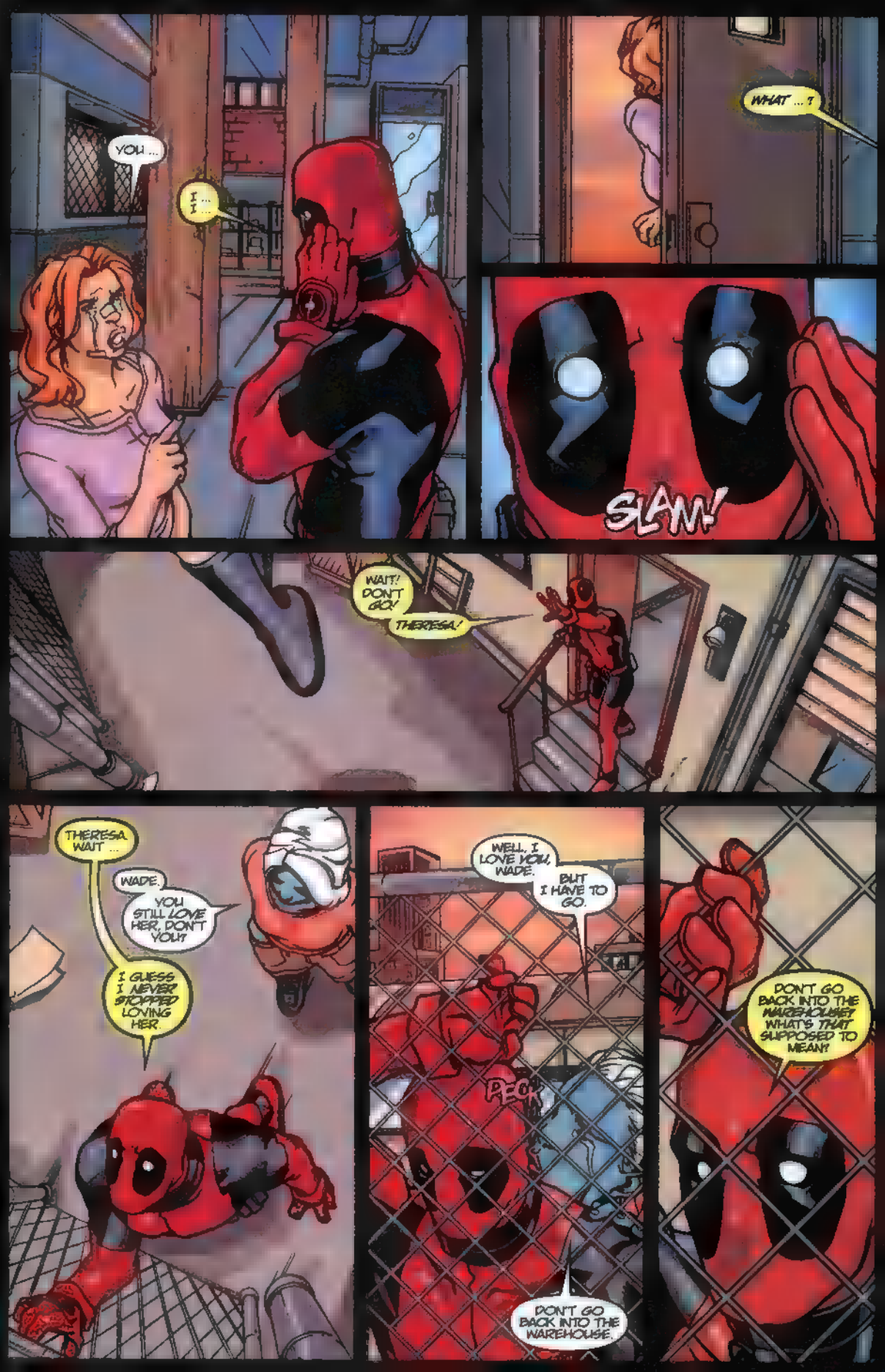
...THIS DISCUSSION OF "DO-HE-KILL-HIM-OR-DON'T-HE-KILL-HIM?" WILL BE A MOOT POINT IN ABOUT A MINUTE!
THIS TIME, I'M UTILIZING SUPERIOR INTELLECT AND TECHNOLOGY TO KILL THE STREET SPEEDER!
BUT HOW...?
FOOSH!
THIS ROCKETPACK IS GOING TO ENABLE ME TO MATCH HIS SPEED.
MY HANDGUN DOES THE REST.
HE'S COMING NOW! HIT THE IGNITION!
GERONIMO-LARRY-AND-CURLY!
FEELIN' A LITTLE SLOW, SPEEDER?
HAH! AIN'T NO SUPER-POWER I CAN'T MATCH!
FOOSH!
WAIT... UH, DON'T SLOW DOWN YET...
...UM, AND SOMEONE CHECK THE MANUAL TO SEE WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT "BRAKES"!
FOOSH!
SCREECH!

AND I THOUGHT I WAS SOME KIND OF SCOOPER GENIUS.
FOOSH! SPLITTTTTER...
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS IN A CARTOON BEFORE?
DOONK!
KPWWWWW!
PZZZZZNNNNG!
OOOOOOH!
ACME FIREWORKS
AHHHHHH!

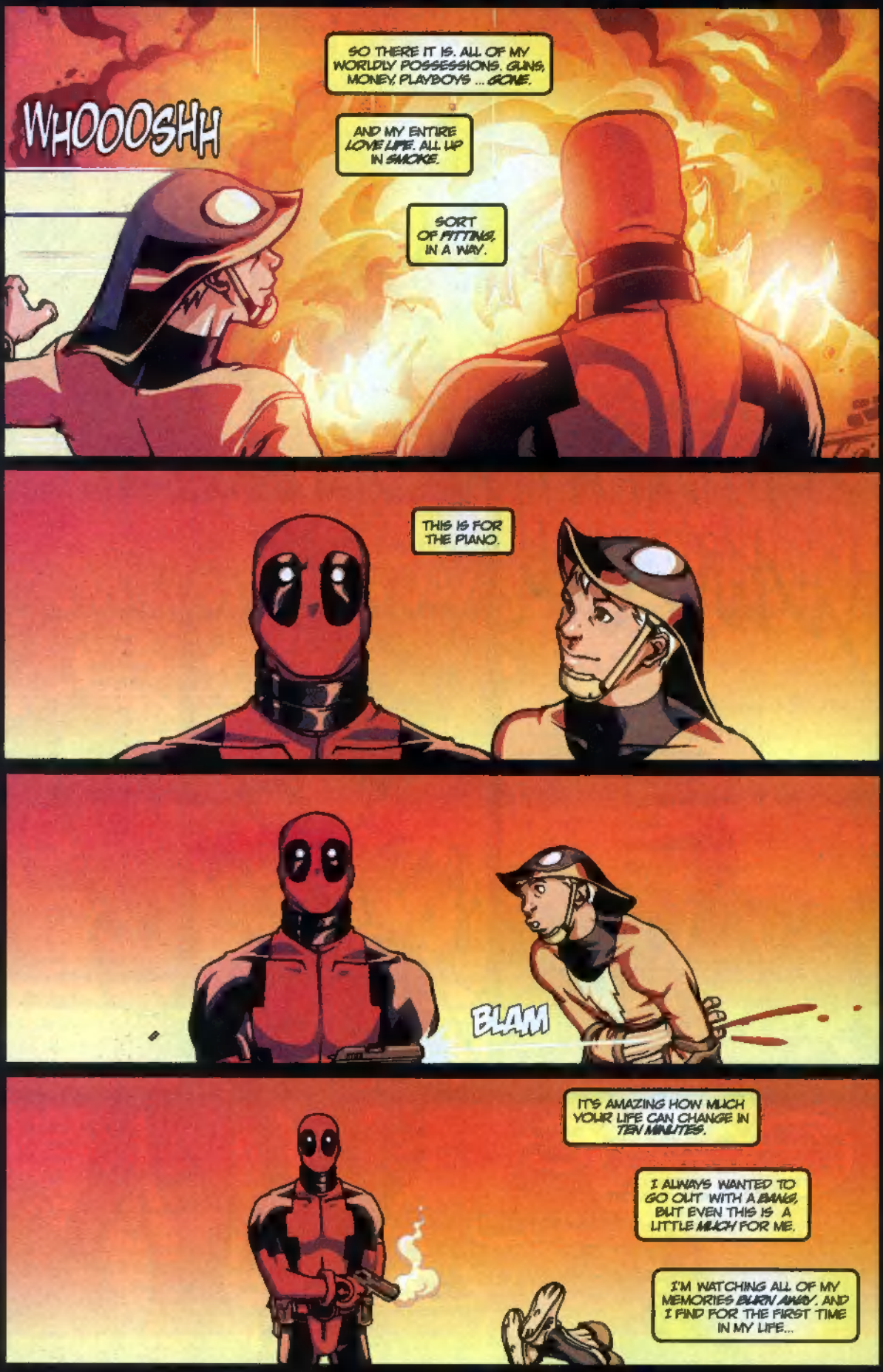
[redacted]... HURT...EARS... [redacted]...
WRRMMM
CLICK*
SORRY FOR SMOKING IN THE HOUSE.
BACK SO SOON, WADE?
OH, HEY, VANESSA. HOW WAS YOUR DAY? MINE WAS A LITTLE QUIET.
MY DAY?!? NOW YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HOW I SPEND MY DAYS?
Hmm, ACTUALLY, NOT VERY. [redacted] INTERESTED IN PULLING OUT THE BOTTLE-[redacted]RETS STICKING OUTTA MY CHARBROILED BUTT.
ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA COME CLEAN ON?
LOOK, IF YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE SHOWER JOKES RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE DRY... WAIT, THAT WAS A SHOWER JOKE RIGHT THERE...
WADE? IT'S ME, THERESA...
...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET TOGETHER TODAY...THERE'S A LOVELY FLOWER EXHIBIT OUT ON LONG ISLAND THAT I'M DYING TO SEE... I FIGURED IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER...
...ANYWAY, CALL ME AT HOME.

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING IT IS.
I'D COVER YOURSELF UP A LITTLE BIT QUICKER IF YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING, FLOWER BOY.
VANESSA, SWEETIE, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LOOK TOO MUCH INTO THIS... ARE YOU?
OKAY, YOU ARE.
YOU'VE PLAYED FOR A POOL FOR THE LAST TIME, WADE!
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME, 'NESS! I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THERESA! I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN AGES! ...NOT SINCE THAT RUN-IN WITH WOLVERINE...
YEAH, RIGHT. THEN HOW DOES SHE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER HERE?
I DON'T KNOW. HONEST.
SHE PROBABLY HAS ACCESS TO THE X-FACTOR-FORCE-FISH COMPUTER! I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE SHE WAS JUST RANDOMLY DIALING NUMBERS IN BROOKLYN AND GOT ME!
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING ANYTHING YOU SAY RIGHT NOW.
KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK
THE DOOR! TALK ABOUT BEING SAVED BY THE BELL
IT COULD BE A CLIENT. GET OUT OF SIGHT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? ASHAMED OF ME?
NO! JEEZE! WOULD YOU GIVE A GUY A BREAK?

oh boy.
THERESA. WHAT A SURPRISE.
COME ON IN...
IS IT A "CLIENT"?
SO THIS IS WHO YOU WANT?
UM, SOMETHING TO DRINK?
THIS IRISH HUSSY!
THE WAY I HEAR IT, MAYBE SHE DOES WANT A DRINK!
SIT DOWN, MAYBE?
UH, THERESA... HAVE YOU MET VANESSA?
SO, UHH... BEEN A WHILE, HUH?
HEY, YOUR FACE... YOU GET INTO A CAR ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING?
THERESA?
UHHH!
SSLAAPP

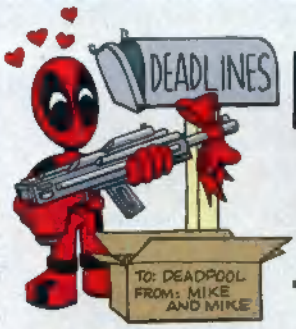

YOU...
I...
I...
WHAT...?
SLAM!
WAIT! DON'T GO!
THERESA!
THERESA. WAIT...
WADE.
YOU STILL LOVE HER, DON'T YOU?
I GUESS I NEVER STOPPED LOVING HER.
WELL, I LOVE YOU, WADE.
BUT I HAVE TO GO.
PEG!
DON'T GO BACK INTO THE WAREHOUSE.
DON'T GO BACK INTO THE WAREHOUSE? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

BBRRAADDOOMM
CHRISTOPHER. THE ILLUSTRIOUS KID DEADPOOL. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
YO, DP! REMEMBER AFTER YOU KILLED MY FATHER, HOW I WANTED TO KILL YOU?
WELL, EVER SINCE I MET MIKI HERE, I DON'T HAVE THAT HOMICIDAL URGE ANYMORE.
ALTHOUGH, NOW I'M INTO MAKING THINGS GO "BOOM".
CHRISTOPHER, IS THAT MY HARLEY?
VVRRMMMMM
ANYWAY, HERE'S YOUR DETONATOR. IT WORKS.
AND I WON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE.
I THINK I'M GOING TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD A LITTLE.
YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME, WADE. NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT TIED DOWN TO THERESA OR VANESSA ANYMORE. HEH.
THANKS FOR THE BIKE!
BYEEE!
THAT WAS MY FAVORITE HARLEY.


WHOOOSHH
SO THERE IT IS. ALL OF MY WORLDLY POSSESSIONS. GUNS, MONEY, PLAYBOYS ... GONE.
AND MY ENTIRE LOVE LIFE. ALL UP IN SMOKE.
SORT OF FITTING, IN A WAY.
THIS IS FOR THE PIANO.
BLAM
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOUR LIFE CAN CHANGE IN TEN MINUTES.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A BANG, BUT EVEN THIS IS A LITTLE MUCH FOR ME.
I'M WATCHING ALL OF MY MEMORIES BURN AWAY, AND I FIND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...

... THAT I'M SPEECHLESS.
NEXT: DEADPOOL
AGENT OF WEAPON X
Brought to you by
FRANK TIERI AND GEORGES JEANTY!

Fin



DEADLINES

MIKE RAICHT ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR
JOE QUESADA CHIEF

10 EAST 40TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10016 EMAIL AT MAIL@MARVEL.COM

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH. MARK E-MAIL "OKAY TO PRINT"

PAGE 3- Therese Rourke, also known as Layla, has been the apple of Deadpool's eye since his second limited series. She and Deadpool last ran into each other in WOLVERINE #'s 154 and 155.

PAGE 8- See the now-classic DEADPOOL #49 for more on Copycat's strange mating rituals.

PAGE 20- Christopher, also briefly known as Kid Deadpool, first appeared in DEADPOOL #50.

Dear Deadlines,

Hi! I would like to say congrats. I loved DEADPOOL #54, but what I truly want to say is that you guys are doing a wonderful job! I am buying more Marvel titles again. The stories and the art have been great.

DAREDEVIL is running on time. The X-MEN BOOKS are awesome. SPIDER-MAN is on a new course. And (I repeat), I am buying more Marvel!

Shawn Lupinacci
Owings Mills, MD

We're doing our best to bring you quality books, Shawn, and we're glad that you and the rest of our fans have started to notice the great books we're putting out month after month from Mighty Marvel! And while we're a little partial to certain books (Everyone should be picking up DEADPOOL, WOLVERINE, EXILES, BLACK PANTHER and UNIVERSE X by now, shouldn't they? — MIKE & MIKE), please be sure to tell your friends about all of the great books that Marvel is producing!

Mike & Mike,

Thank you for getting the incredibly talented Georges Jeanty to pencil this book. I was hoping he wouldn't just disappear after the GAMBIT & BISHOP limited series.

It's also great to see the Punisher in DEADPOOL—I've been waiting for what seems like forever to see these two 'shades-of-gray' in the Marvel Universe bang heads. Part One of "End of the Road" has done an admirable job of living up to my expectations. Well done! This book is heading back towards the brilliance of its first year ... which is no small praise. I've already got three new readers hooked on DEADPOOL by loaning them a few back issues! And if you keep improving on the book, then they'll keep on buying the book and I'll keep trying to grab up even more readers for you ... deal?

Paul D. Jedrzejewska-Selman
Kent, England

That's a deal we can't refuse, Paul! We're psyched that you've enjoyed all the great changes we've made here at the House of Ideas, and we're especially happy that you've turned other readers on to our titles! Thanks!

Georges Jeanty is truly an awesome artist and we love the work he's been doing for us! And while he didn't get the chance to pencil this particular issue (Karl Kerschl did quite a job, didn't he? Check him out on the ICEMAN limited series coming your way later this year! — MIKE & MIKE), have no fear—Georges will be back next month for the beginning of DEADPOOL: AGENT OF WEAPON X #1!

And for you longtime DEADPOOL fans out there worried about the new #1 ... don't worry! While this is indeed the first issue of DEADPOOL: AGENT OF WEAPON X, it's also DEADPOOL #57! All four issues of this special series-within-a-series will carry both numbers on the covers. We're not starting over, we're just making this storyline as special as possible!

Dear Deadlines,

I've been reading DEADPOOL for only five or six issues now, but once I read it I immediately became a fan!

But now that I've had the chance to read DEADPOOL #54 where Wade faces off against the Punisher, I'm wondering about something: why does Deadpool keep hesitating when he gets the chance to off the Punisher? Just shoot him already! He's had two opportunities to just get it over with so far, and he's blown both chances! You'd think the guy would want some time alone with Copycat! It doesn't seem to make sense! I mean, I know you want to stretch the story out as long as possible, but it just seems that every time Deadpool has the Punisher in his grasp, he starts blabbing and then ends up either getting shot or losing his kill!

Can't wait 'til the next issue, though!

Rob Dixon
(address withheld by request)

Hey, he's not called the Merc-with-a-Mouth for nothin', Rob! Sure, he tends to blab a lot and talks a little too much ... but that's why we love him! And heck, he wouldn't get into half the trouble he does if it weren't for his overanxious mouth! I mean, let's face it, fans, Deadpool's biggest problem has always been the same thing—Deadpool! And as you saw in this issue, Deadpool never seems to be able to land directly on his feet ... usually, it's some other body part!

Dear Deadlines,

Oh my! I just read DEADPOOL #54 and ... wet myself! It was that good! You rock! I have been reading DP since issue #1, and it just keeps getting better and better!

Anyway, I've enjoyed the whole metamorphosis that is DEADPOOL the series. I enjoyed the serious side to him shown in "Cruel Summer", but to be honest, I much prefer the wisecracking Merc-with-a-Mouth that was shown in DEADPOOL #54 (I can't say enough good things about it!).

Now for one question (and please respond, because it's been driving me crazy!). In DEADPOOL #54 on page 8, Deadpool appears to be holding a magazine. One side of the mag has some model on it ...but what's on the other side? Is it a drawing of a TRANSFORMER? Please tell me I'm not crazy and that for some reason Deadpool is in fact reading something with what looks to be a Transformer on it. I'm a huge Deadpool fan, but I'm also a child of the 80's! And though the answer may cause me to lose all control of my bodily functions, I need to know is it a Transformer?

So until Deadpool goes up against Optimus Prime (oh please!), Make Mine Marvel!

Barleman
(address withheld by request)

Sure looks like a Transformer to us, Barleman! It seems our colorist, Tom Chu, is a huge fan of our robotic friends from the 80's. And he's also a spectacular colorist, as well! So, while Barleman is cleaning himself up, let's have a round of applause for Tom Chu. He deserves it! (But hey, does it bother anyone else that our readers are more excited about a hidden robot than "some model"? Just a thought. — MIKE & MIKE)

Dear Deadlines,

You have finally found your art team! Georges Jeanty and Jon Holdredge did an awesome job with DEADPOOL #54! The Punisher looked great and so did Wade. Vanessa looked great, too! And the Merc-with-a-Mouth finally lived up to his name when he got the drop on the Punisher. I can't wait to see how this fight ends!

And Jimmy Palmiotti and Buddy Scalera sure have a great handle on how to write the Punisher—if his new series needs some guest writers, they're right here!

So until Wade has Vanessa turn into his favorite model Make Mine Marvel!

Jason Smith
(address withheld by request)

Glad you liked the art, Jason. Both Georges Jeanty and Jon Holdredge will be right here next month to begin the four-part DEADPOOL: AGENT OF WEAPON X storyline. So don't panic, another helping of Jeanty & Holdredge is heading your way soon!

And speaking of great pairings, big thanks to Palmiotti & Scalera for all the great work over the last few months. And, readers, let us know what you thought about Buddy's solo writing debut this month. We sure enjoyed it!

Dear Deadlines,

Sweet Christmas! Another great issue of DEADPOOL! It was twenty-two pages of funny with just the right amount of action. My favorite part of DP #54 was when Deadpool was thinking to himself about all of the different Marvel Universe women that he'd enjoy seeing Copycat morph into. Deadpool's sure going to have a lot of fun!

And it looks as if it's going to be a great battle between Deadpool and the Punisher—I can't wait to find out who's gonna come out on top! Keep up the great work.

John Klein III
Yuma, Arizona

Sweet Christmas, indeed, John! We're glad you liked this soon-to-be-classic team-up between Deadpool and the Punisher! But as for DP and Copycat ... things don't look too good. Especially after this issue.

The great stories don't end here, though. Next month, Deadpool begins his sojourn into the Wolververse as he receives the invitation to join a very special organization with some very elite members. And in case you haven't already, you might want to pick up WOLVERINE #166 to see where this saga begins. It will give you a peek into what Deadpool has in store for him, as well as a look at the writing of DEADPOOL's new scribe, Frank Tieri! Frank's got his quirks, but, boy, can he tell a story ... a very mean story. So get ready, cuz the Merc-with-a-Mouth is about to become an Agent of Weapon X! It's a big deal, trust us!

MIKE & MIKE

NEXT ISSUE:
DEADPOOL: AGENT OF WEAPON X #1!
'NUFF SAID!